



City and County of San Francisco

Commission on the Status of Women

Mayor London N. Breed

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

5:00 pm

San Francisco City Hall, Room 408

Members Present:

President Dr. Shokooh Miry x

Vice President Dr. Raveena Rihal x

Commissioner Sophia Andary x

Commissioner Sharon Chung (excused)

Commissioner Dr. Anne Moses (excused)

Commissioner Ani Rivera x

Commissioner Breanna Zwart x

Note: The Commission will hear public comment on each item on the agenda before or during consideration of that item.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at: 5:09pm. Remarks by President Shokooh Miry. Ms. Battung performed roll call, confirmed 5 of 7 Commissioners present (quorum). Ms. Battung read the land acknowledgment.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No Commissioner comment.

No public comment.

(Roll Call Vote) Zwart/ Andary – 5 ayes, 0 nays – Unanimous

III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Kimberly Ellis discussed the upcoming: Women's Policy Summit on Thursday, April 13th

Health and Safety Panel; Commissioned continued support to bring attention to the women's policy summit; BARC – Regional Stakeholders Meeting. Civic Engagement – Step into Power Campaign – She The People: 4 part video series. Research and Data: Women in public spaces – Representation of women in public spaces.

Breanna Zwart comment: Asked about Step into Power Campaign. Who else will be highlighted?

Director Ellis comment: References a political makeup campaign to seek other women that should be highlighted.

Ani Rivera comment: Expresses excitement. Asked about a timeline for the policy summit.

Director Ellis: Refers to the website and Whova application for full agenda. KE then outlined each full day agenda.

Miry comment: Points out the 14% of representation in women in public figures. What happens when we report/realized the city ordinance has not been met. The city ordinance is 30%.

No Public comment.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. COMPETITIVE SOLICITATION REQUIREMENT WAIVER REQUEST FOR THE GENDER POLICY INSTITUTE

Alex Boskovich presented the necessity for the grant solicitation waiver form for the Gender Equity Policy Institute support of BAARC.

(Roll Call Vote) Rihal/ Rivera – 5 ayes, 0 nays – Unanimous

PRESENTATION ON DECRIMINALIZING SEX WORK

Rachel West (US Prostitutes Collective and In Defense of Prostitute Women’s Safety) and Nell Myhaand (Women of Color Global Women’s Strike) presented on their advocacy efforts to decriminalize sex work.

Commission Comment:

Rivera: Asked about the guaranteed income pilot program that the department could eventually pursue.

KE: Speaks to a guaranteed income pilot in Hawaii to support sex workers with a desire to no longer engage in sex work. Highlights the importance of poverty.

Rachel West: the pilot program will be open to more than just sex workers because of the confidentiality involved in sex work since it’s not necessarily publicized based on someone’s positions.

Commissioner Andary: Thanks for the presentation. How does decriminalization help financial independence.

Rachel West: decriminalization allows for more discretion.

Andary: Are we aware of any examples?

Rachel West: Only Nevada really – aside from New Zealand example.

Nell Myhaand: Speaks to the mindset of criminality that comes along when there is victim blaming.

Rivera: Why exclude migrant women?

Rachel West: affirms it's a weakness in the law.

Public Comment:

Rev Monica Cross State Poor Peoples Campaign: A national call for a moral revival. To urge DOSW to support the decriminalization of sex work. 70% of sex workers are single mothers. Because its criminalized they are more vulnerable: 60% are black women.

Brea – Speech therapist – Black queer fem: Points to the example of New Zealand – the National Poor Peoples campaign. Building power and investing. Reconstruction agenda of the PPC. Urges the SF DOSW to support the decriminalization of prostitution.

Selea – Sex therapist and sex worker: Digital content creation – Harm and abuse in the digital space – no employment protections – conditions for digital sex workers have shifted – References the data from Sacramento.

Nedru Lease – Criminal Defense Attorney – Legal Action for Women: Abolition of laws that criminalize sex work. These laws do not protect women, these laws do no protect families. Criminalization only damages the poor. Jurisprudence requires a rational basis and the laws are not rational.

Pastor B – Congregation has stood with same-sex marriage; served food programs; Hookers in the House of the Lord; Sex workers deserve the same legal protection. Urge to decriminalize sex work.

Jane Welford – Global Women's Strike: Women do make up 70% of the poor. We approach the way sex workers are deemed unfit mothers; When you take away the label of criminal from sex work you take away the fear of women losing their children because of sex work.

Tia Gardner – Works with Pastor B as well. It's present in education, healthcare system, pervasive in all facets. Constantly on the defensive in a sanctuary city. Sex criminalization affects all of us, including our neighbors and constituents. How do we move from 14% to 30% from public spaces. Maybe if our constituents aren't behind bars. Equity Strategist.

V. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Emberly Cross, Cooperative Restraining Order Clinic: Speaks on success story. The District Attorney's office quickly referred them to the restraining order clinic. 5 year restraining order granted to one of their clients.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at: 6:35